

The St. Louis Sites

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • Fall 2000

(314) 260-3905

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Clean soil and rock are being used to backfill the 2-acre hole left behind by the cleanup of the Radium Pits. Restoration of this area will be completed by the end of this year.

North County

FS/PP Release Scheduled

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) continues work with its Headquarters, Environmental Protection Agency and State agencies to finish the North County Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan (FS/PP). These documents will present remedial alternatives to address contamination present at the Latty Avenue/Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS), the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), the SLAPS Vicinity Properties (VPs) and Coldwater Creek. The purpose of these alternatives is to address the presence of Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission-related contamination at the sites.

Alternatives for remediating the North County sites will be described in detail in the Feasibility Study and presented to the public for review and comment. The Proposed Plan will identify the alternative recommended by the USACE to address contamination at the sites.


In August, draft copies of the North County FS/PP were provided to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Missouri for review and comment. The USACE is currently working to address the comments received from these agencies in late-October. Once these comments are addressed, the USACE will present the North County FS/PP to the public for review and comment over a 30-day period.



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The final remedy for the North County sites will be selected based on the written comments received during the 30-day public comment period. The final remedy may not necessarily be the alternative identified as the preferred alternative by the USACE in the Proposed Plan.

What's Next?

The North County FS/PP is currently scheduled to be released to the public for review and comment in January 2001, after responses to the EPA and State comments have been addressed. Copies will be made available for public review at the Project Office and at the Local Information Repository 

St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS)

Radium Pits Excavation Complete

In November, the USACE successfully and safely completed the removal of the most contaminated material encountered to date in the St. Louis FUSRAP project. Approximately 49,800 cubic yards of radiologically contaminated soils were removed from the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) Radium Pits area.

The USACE took every precaution to prevent any release of the material from the site. Air monitors operated continuously in and around the excavation area. Crews regularly sprayed the work area with water to prevent the soils from drying and becoming airborne. New fencing and barriers were installed around the perimeter of the site to prevent inadvertent access. Berms and sumps were located around and within the Radium Pits to ensure the water that fell on contaminated soils was collected, sampled and, if necessary, treated prior to release.

Upcoming Events

Information Releases:

Winter Newsletter – February 2001

Upcoming Meetings:

St. Louis Oversight Committee Meeting at the FUSRAP Project Office at 11:30 a.m. on December 8th, January 12th, and February 9th. (The public is welcome to attend.)



The excavator (shown above) is moving material from the HISS Supplemental Pile into a front end loader, which takes the material directly to the railcars.

Rock and clean soil are being used to backfill the 2-acre hole left from this removal action. The restoration of the area will be completed in December with the exception of a small section at the southwestern corner of the Radium Pits, which will serve as a sump during the next phase of cleanup at SLAPS.

East End Extension Removal Underway

With the completion of excavation activities in the Radium Pits, the USACE is shifting its focus to the removal of the SLAPS East End Extension. The East End Extension contains approximately 46,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils. It includes the region of contaminated soil between the Radium Pits and the East End, and in the drainage ditch immediately south of McDonnell Boulevard.

Removal activities have been designed to limit the total area open at any given time and to prevent cross-contamination. The East End Extension removal action is proceeding in three general phases: work in the drainage ditch from the eastern tip of SLAPS to the edge of the East End; work in the main body of the East End Extension; and work in the drainage ditch from the western edge of the Radium Pits eastward.

In November, the USACE began the first phase of the East End Extension removal action by beginning work in the drainage ditch south of McDonnell Boulevard. Removing contamination from the East End Extension and the drainage ditch will create a continuous area of clean soils in the northeast portion of SLAPS.

What's next?

Once the first phase of the East End Extension removal action is complete, work within the main body will begin. ■

Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS)

Pile Removals Continue

In October, the USACE removed approximately 7,100 cubic yards of material from the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) using a small business contractor. The removal of the Supplemental Storage Pile under the 1998 HISS Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was completed in four weeks.

The Supplemental Pile, which was the result of a drainage and utility improvement project performed by the Cities of Berkeley and Hazelwood in 1986, could be seen behind the project trailers from Latty Avenue. Only the footprint where that pile once stood remains.

The USACE has begun the removal of the Main Pile, the final pile left at HISS. Approximately 12,500 cubic yards of material contained in the Main Pile will be removed under the next contract. The USACE began removing approximately 5,000 cubic yards of soil from the North Half of the Main Pile in November, under an existing contract.

What's Next?

The USACE will continue removing the Main Pile through the end of the year using a small business contractor. ■

Keeping in Touch

Mailing Lists - To receive newsletters and other printed communications, sign up for our mailing list anytime.

Phone: (314) 260-3905
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Public Speaking - If your group, school, or association would like to hear from one of our experts, give us a call. We can speak on a variety of fields, including engineering, the environment, and geology.

Homepage - To reach our site, set your browser to www.mvs.usace.army.mil and click on the FUSRAP icon.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments, contact our office anytime.



Characterization data obtained from the soil samples will be used to develop remedial designs for the cleanup of the vicinity properties at SLDS.

St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS)

Plant 1 Remediation Continues

The remediation of Plant 1 at the Mallinckrodt facility is continuing forward on schedule. Cleanup activities in Plant 1 are continuing as two simultaneous remediation efforts - the main excavation area and the eleven isolated areas.

Under the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) Record of Decision (ROD), remediation activities in the main excavation area will result in the removal of approximately 1,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil next to building foundations and roadways. To protect these structures during excavation activities, a steel slide-rail shoring system is being used. This system allows shoring and excavation to be accomplished simultaneously, whereas the installation of traditional sheet piling would have delayed excavation activities 30 days. Removal activities are being accomplished in a series of strips using the slide-rail system.

The eleven isolated areas of elevated radiological activity require remediation to depths of three feet or less. Remedial activities in these areas are expected to produce an additional 400 cubic yards of material for disposal.

Roughly 1,600 cubic yards of material have been removed from Plant 1 to date (including material from four of the isolated areas). The USACE anticipates completing the 1,900 cubic yard excavation and backfill by the end of this year. Restoration of the remediated areas in Plant 1, however, will not be completed until early 2001.

Plant 6 East Half Begins

Preparatory work for the Plant 6 East Half remediation began in November. Since Mallinckrodt uses Plant 6 East Half for current shipping and receiving operations, the USACE plans to phase remedial work to minimize the impact of the cleanup on current business operations.

Workers prepared the site by surveying and staking the excavation area for the first phase of work. Fencing was then installed around the perimeter of the work area to prevent inadvertent access. Electric, water and sewer lines are currently being routed away from the area to minimize safety risks to personnel.

Pre-design characterization data indicates that the Plant 6 East Half contains approximately 3,800 cubic yards of material. Remedial work in this area will begin early in 2001 with the removal of the concrete pad that covers the footprint of the demolished Buildings 116 and 117.

SLDS Vicinity Properties Sampled

The USACE has been busy over the last several months systematically collecting soil samples to characterize contamination on properties surrounding the Mallinckrodt facility. These properties are known as the SLDS Vicinity Properties. They are primarily operating industrial facilities.

Areas of potential contamination were identified in a limited soil sampling event over ten years ago. The current sampling event is necessary to better define the depth and extent of contamination on these properties and to verify that Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission (MED/AEC) contamination is not present in other areas. Several rounds of sampling are typically necessary to fully determine the extent of contamination.

Information obtained from these sampling events will be used to develop work plans and designs for remedial activities at the vicinity properties. The USACE plans to begin remediating the SLDS Vicinity Properties in 2001.

What's Next?

The USACE will begin excavation activities in Plant 6 East Half once the remediation of Plant 1 is finished. In the meantime, data from the sampling of the SLDS vicinity properties will be compiled and analyzed to develop work plans and designs. ■

Why Don't You Just Start Digging?

C If you know where the contamination is, why don't you just start digging it up and hauling it away? Once all of the contamination is removed, the problem is resolved and everyone can go home. Why do you keep writing documents?

A Although an environmental cleanup project seems very simple, numerous documents must be written before the contamination can be removed. No one wants to go into a contaminated area without being certain they know what pollutants are present. Unless you know what contaminants are present, it is difficult to protect yourself or others against its health risks or to protect the environment from additional harm.

In 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). CERCLA dictates several activities must be conducted before a final remedy can be selected for a site. (FUSRAP is conducted according to CERCLA.)

The first activity in the CERCLA process is to conduct a **Preliminary Assessment (PA)**. During the PA, historical background information is collected to determine the likely locations of hazardous materials and to determine the initial extent of site contamination. Next, a **Site Inspection (SI)** is performed to verify this information by collecting limited soil and water samples. If substantial amounts of contamination are confirmed to be present on the site, further study and analysis are needed.

The **Remedial Investigation (RI)** further identifies the types of contaminants present at or near the site, the degree and extent of contamination, and potential risks to public health and the environment. Information gathered during this phase will assist in developing cleanup alternatives to address the contamination, which will be identified in the **Feasibility Study (FS)**. Once the remedial alternatives are identified, the **Proposed Plan (PP)** is written. The PP summarizes the alternatives presented in the FS and identifies a recommended cleanup remedy for a site.

Upon completion of these documents, the FS/PP is presented to the public for review and comment over a 30-day period. While the public can submit comments at any time during this review period, a public meeting is also held to provide an opportunity to discuss the alternatives. After the 30-day comment period has ended, a specific long-term remedial action or cleanup technology can be selected. The selected cleanup alternative is identified in the **Record of Decision (ROD)**, which is the final document in the CERCLA process. The ROD will substantiate the need for a remedial action, describe the proposed action and justify the removal action selected. Public comments, the Corps's replies to public comments, and any new information are addressed in the Responsiveness Summary of the ROD.

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